

## McDEARMON'S MURDER.

The Crime Committed by Boonville's Marshal on Saturday Evening.

Minute Particulars Regarding the Killing of the Editor of a Greenback Paper.

The Murderer Arrested, Then Admitted to Bail, and Again Taken Into Custody.

Great Excitement in the "Vine Clad" City Over the Truly Lamentable Affair.

Boonville was a sad city yesterday. Her people sorrowed, not because a great man had passed away, but because a neighbor in the cold embrace of death and that his death was a tragic one.

## HISTORY OF THE KILLING.

Mr. A. B. Thornton was editor of the Boonville News, and in that position he often alluded to the city government affairs. He was especially severe upon the police department, of which it is understood T. H. B. McDermion, the city marshal, took to himself, and it is reported that some hot words had passed between Mr. Thornton and the marshal regarding the publications made previous to the one which was published last Saturday and led to a fatal termination on that day.

The following is a copy of the article which was published in the News on Saturday, Nov. 19, for which it is alleged that poor Thornton gave up his life's blood:

## THE FATAL ARTICLE.

"This thing of one man, arbitrary rule in the quiet, well-disposed city of Boonville, to look at it not exactly in the abstract, is growing a little bit too monotonous, it occurs to us, for the present and prospective good credit and high-standing of its honored denizens. Many such repetitions as that enacted upon our streets last Saturday by our big burly, overgrown, unprincipled policeman, will, it seems to us, not only drive from our midst every passing enterprise that is touting the country in search of trade and the benefit of our specie, but cast a strain of disgrace and dishonor upon the fair name and fame of our deserving little city. The citizens of this community cannot afford, at the hands of a drunken ignoramus, to involve in doubt and dishonor the social and business interests and gracious prestige of fifty thousand persons and more who frequent our thoroughfares in one business requirement or other during every year. It should be recollected that our standing abroad, as well as at home, depends entirely upon the government we keep—the treatment given strangers, the conduct of officials and the courtesy to each other being the unerring index to all. A man to fill the duties of such an official as policeman in a city with the vastness of importance of such a city as this, should be a sober man at least with sound judgment and dignified bearing and possessed with legal acumen and common sense enough to know right from wrong and resolute enough at all hazards to do his duty and do no more. We don't exactly know where the authority of our city government entirely rests, whether it reposes legislatively, judicially and executive in the muscular prowess of a two hundred and fifty pound policeman, no matter how ill-bred and inefficient he may be, whether his discretion is beyond and above all written law and from his will no appeal can be taken, or whether it may find its eternal and final lodgement, but certain it is, it is most blunderingly and brutally executed at times. We would suggest that this official cease his nonsense or resign."

It is said that as soon as McDermion saw the article and digested its contents, although his name was not mentioned, he started with the paper containing the article in his hand to hunt the author. Seeing Thornton on the street accompanied by Mr. Townsley, the local editor of the paper, McDermion called him and he stopped until the irate officer approached near enough to be heard when he demanded:

## PRECEDED BY A VILE EPITHET.

to know if he put that article in, alluding, no doubt, to the one reproduced above. The officer struck him before he had time to reply, and then proceeded, within the next three seconds to fill him with cold lead and kept on shooting until his victim fell dead at his feet. Some witnesses say he shot once after Thornton was dead in the gutter—six times, in all, with a self-cocking revolver.

## DISPOSITION OF THE BODY.

When persons reached the deceased's body a four-barreled pistol lay between his feet, which McDermion called the attention of Townsley to in order to justify the killing. The body was taken to the humble home there to find a mourning widow and eight orphan children to hear the brunt of the cold world without the advice and experience of a kind husband and an indulgent father.

## GIVES HIMSELF UP.

Very soon after the shooting McDermion, accompanied by an officer, went to Sheriff Rogers and said:

"I have killed a man and desire to give bail."

The sheriff at first thought the parties were joking, but subsequently he was brought to understand the true situation of affairs, when he took him in custody and afterward released him on bail, to appear to-day at 9 o'clock a. m.

## RE-ARRESTED.

Yesterday morning Prosecuting Attorney J. R. Walker swore out an information against McDermion, when he was re-arrested and committed to jail without bail.

## THE INQUEST.

Saturday night the following named gentlemen were summoned as a jury to investigate the killing of Dr. Thornton:

J. M. Jegglin, J. E. Taliaferro, J. A. Minnie, O. Edwards, John Durr, J. C. Maccurdy and Dr. J. T. McClannahan. The coroner adjourned the inquest until yesterday. Sunday morning the jury viewed the body at the late residence of the deceased.

At one o'clock yesterday the coroner's

jury commenced its investigation in the court house at Boonville to a packed audience in fact one-half of the male inhabitants of the city and quite a sprinkling of ladies were in attendance. The anxiety of the people was evinced by the death-like stillness of the throng present as the main portion of the testimony were given—or the details of the terrible homicide were being recited by witnesses who saw the lamentable affair.

Thornton was hit by three bullets. One shot took effect in the right elbow, breaking the arm. The second shot which perforated his body was in the region of the heart, while the third that hit him entered the left temple.

## AN EYE WITNESS.

George H. Townsley was the first witness called, who said he worked on the News, of which paper the deceased was editor. I was with Mr. Thornton Saturday evening on the street when McDermion called to us. We stopped, when McDermion came up, and, holding a paper in his hand, he said:

"You s— of a b—, did you put that in your paper?"

As soon as he said this he struck him. Mr. Thornton staggered and jumped three or four feet. McDermion then shot him while he stood with both hands in his overcoat pockets. Thornton then attempted to say something, when McDermion put his pistol within three or four inches of his breast and fired the second shot. McDermion then

## CAUGHT HOLD OF THE LAPEL OF THE COAT

of the deceased and fired again. Three more shots were fired in quick succession, one being fired after the deceased was in the gutter, I think. After firing the last time, McDermion said:

"There, you s— of a b—"

McDermion then walked away a few steps and returned and said to me:

"George, don't let anybody touch that pistol, pointing to a pistol which he between his feet. He pulled it on me and I killed him for it."

I did not see deceased draw a pistol—did not know he had one. He said nothing to Mr. McDermion at all after the shooting began."

## A LADY'S TESTIMONY.

Mrs. David Spahr testified that she was on the street at the time of the shooting, in company with other ladies, when one of her companions said, "Mr. McDermion is shooting a man all to pieces." "I was confused and could not see plainly for the smoke, but I saw the deceased fall in the gutter. I then saw that it was Dr. Thornton."

## ANOTHER LADY WHO SAW THE SHOOTING.

Mrs. Henry M. Thomson testified that she, in company with other ladies, was on Main street Saturday during the shooting, and saw the deceased fall in the gutter, when McDermion caught him by the coat and fired in his face, she thought. She saw McDermion shoot the deceased after he was down in the gutter. McDermion then left, shaking a paper at him, which he held in his hand. Saw no pistol in deceased's hands.

## TWO MORE LADIES.

Mrs. Lizzie Kilburn testified that she saw the killing. This lady's testimony was about the same as that of the other ladies who preceded her.

Mrs. James Gault testified that she saw McDermion take hold of the deceased and shoot him twice.

## A CHILD'S STORY.

Miss Anna Machett, a little girl, testified that six shots were fired in the trouble she saw and heard. Only one man did any shooting as far as she saw.

## A NEGRO GIRL.

Nora Alexander, colored, testified, but what she knew about the case would not fill a very large book.

## TESTIMONY OF SUBSTANTIAL CITIZENS.

John L. O'Bryan testified that there were six shots fired, occupying not exceeding three seconds, as fast as a man could fire off a self-cocking pistol. Went to where the body lay and called Mr. Thornton. He was dead. Discovered a pistol partly under him. He took it and gave it to the coroner. Noticed the wound in his forehead.

J. M. Nelson and Dr. C. J. Berger testified about the same as other witnesses, only Dr. B. said that the pistol found with deceased was a four barreled revolver.

## History of the Dead Editor.

Mr. A. B. Thornton had been living in Boonville, where he was married to Miss Ophelia Dow, some nineteen or twenty years ago. He had been a prominent insurance agent for a number of years past in Boonville and Jefferson City. He commenced his career as a newspaper man by taking editorial charge of the Boonville Topic in the spring of 1880. He remained with the Topic for about six months, when he retired from his position and founded the Boonville News, a greenback journal, in October of that year. He was recognized as one of the brightest, most brilliant and forcible writers in the greenback party. His writings were copied by the greenback press throughout the land. A very bright future was in store for him. Hon. J. W. North, of Iowa, had recognized his ability as one of the shining lights in his profession, and had invited him to assist him in stumping the district in the interests of the party, to begin Dec. 1st. Mr. Thornton was in the prime of life, about 45 years of age. As a newspaper man he was a success; as a kind, genial, affable gentleman he was looked upon with kindly favor, even by most of those who were antagonistic to his party principles. A kind, gentle, indulgent father and husband—at all times extremely careful not to offend, if possible, any, unless aroused, but when so antagonized, knew no limit of showing up the party. About six weeks ago Thornton and McDermion had some difficulty, occasioned by his asking McDermion for his dues to the paper for advertisements and subscription. As McDermion refused to settle this bill, they had a difficulty upon the street, due notice of which was given in the local papers at the time. They were from that time the most bitter enemies.

A short time after Thornton's marriage he settled in Jefferson City, and became, in partnership with the late Col. Bragg, the proprietor of the fine building known as Bragg's hall, in which the People's Tribune has for several years been published. Subsequently he unfortunately lost this property valued at \$40,000, and became involved in serious pecuniary embarrassments.

He was a native of Osage county where until recently he owned a very fine farm. His family relatives in Osage and the adjoining county of Cole is quite large and respectable. J. M. Clark, president of the First National bank of Jefferson City and the wealthiest man of that town, was his uncle.

The deceased was a quiet, inoffensive man, a good citizen and neighbor—small of stature and generally poor health. While he was not a prominent man, or one calculated to draw about a great number of friends, but scarcely one knew him but speak of him kindly.

Since Mr. Thornton has been publishing the News his wife and daughters learned to set type, and they did all the mechanical work of the office, while he did all the editorial and business labor of the establishment. They are all industrious and hard working people, which is much to commend them.

## History of McDermion.

Thomas H. B. McDermion is a son of H. E. W. McDermion now residing at Boonville. The old gentleman is seventy-one years old and has lived in Cooper county about fifty years. During the war he was mayor of Boonville and while in a difficulty with a German soldier shot and killed him in the streets of Boonville. The soldier was drunk at the time of the trouble.

Frank McDermion, a younger brother than Tom, had a difficulty with a state militiaman named Tom Steiff at a ball in 1864, when they both carved each other to death with knives. Both died within five minutes.

Several years ago Tom, who is now charged with the killing of Thornton, shot at Sam Acton, who at that time was a resident of Boonville. Through the interference of one of the city officials he undoubtedly saved Acton's life, as he pushed the pistol aside and the bullet went whistling wide of its aim.

Later, Tom since he has been city marshal, undertook to arrest a desperate fellow named Fulheart who resided in Cooper county, and he too was shot at. The latter the community and the law fully justified his act.

Tom McDermion is not a bad man in many respects. He has among his good qualities a generous disposition and helped many poor people—a genial, companionable sort of a man. True to a friend but death to an enemy. He had a violent temper when aroused and did many hasty acts which he repented of at leisure. He does almost everything by impulse and always went at it with a vim.

## THE VERDICT

Of the Jury in the Thornton Killing.

## Special to the BAZOO.

BOONVILLE, Mo., Nov. 21. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict to-day in the case of the Thornton killing, as follows:

"We, the jury, find that A. B. Thornton came to his death by a pistol wound, the weapon being in the hands of Thos. H. B. McDermion, and that he be held on the charge of having committed a felony."

The accused is still in jail.

## OLINTON ITEMS.

—W. H. Cock & Co. have removed to their new quarters.

—Look out for a wedding in high life soon. It will surely come.

—The theatrical students under Prof. (?) Mitchell have disbanded, consequently will not grace our stage. It is out of the question anyhow.

—Would like to know who "Carlo" is. His very fine pieces fill the columns of the Republican. Would like to see the young man quiet down.

—Mr. G. L. Burgess, a prominent grocer of this city, made an assignment of his stock of goods yesterday to C. T. Collins. Mr. Burgess hails from Sedalia, and embarked in business about thirty days ago. The sheriff took possession with an attachment.

—Were Fellow's Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites useless in all other diseases, the benefit which it undoubtedly yields in consumption would vindicate its claim to the attention of every medical practitioner.

## The Pistol in School.

At Syracuse a rather advanced curriculum seems to have obtained. A gentleman residing in that village says that one of the sweet school girls has been indulging in a little pistol practice, which is not the least of her accomplishments acquired at the public school located in this modern Dionysian city. She had a boy lover who was also a pupil of the institution. He was not true, however, but wandered off after strange gods, or rather goddesses. His affections alighted upon another sweet school girl. Jealousy, green of eye and dining in a mocking manner of the first girl, put in an appearance, as usual under the circumstances. She procured a nasty pistol, then and there loaded with powder and leaden ball, from a male acquaintance. It was her rival that she was after. She invited the other girl to step out into the school-yard, which invitation was declined. The infuriated and scorned girl then told her rival that if she refused to obey longer she would send her to that region which furnishes its own fires the year round. Drawing her weapon she asserted that she believed she would do it anyhow, and fired full at the hated object. Fortunately the ball went wide of the mischief it was intended to do. In a short time the recreant lover himself showed his mug in the proximity of the slighted girl. She concluded that she would give him a whirl also. She shot at him accordingly, and the bullet barely grazed his lower maxillary. Thinking that the locality was rather unhealthy just at that hour of the day, he ran away.

The affair creates, as it naturally would, considerable excitement, and the general opinion seems to be that that girl is dangerous when standing behind the festive pop.

—Every man, woman and child who wants woolen goods of any description, jeans, flannels, blankets, stocking yarns, etc., and wants to save big money in buying, must go to the Old Reliable Sedalia Woolen Mills.

8-15w2m

## FRANKLIN SCHOOL.

Thanksgiving Entertainment Last Night.

The pupils of No. 4 acquitted themselves with credit to all concerned. Not a single failure during the evening. The exercises were spicy, pleasant and hearty. The singing was loudly applauded by the audience, and especially were the pieces sung by the boys good. The rooms were all lighted and decorated, and the members of the board, superintendents of schools and parents were shown through the rooms by the teachers after the exercises were over. All visitors passed compliments on the rooms.

Miss Jessie's room was said to be the most original; Miss Katie's, the brightest; Miss Lillie's the most modest, and Mr. Laum's the richest.

The principal of the Washington school not only expressed himself pleased with the exercises and the taste manifested in the decorations of the rooms, but also took no little interest in the teachers of No. 1. The other rooms of Franklin will give an entertainment near the holidays.

The following was one of the exercises written for the occasion and read by four boys:

## THANKSGIVING LESSONS.

To the threshold of this day, as to the threshold of the old parental home before our pilgrim feet, we have come at last. It may be we have passed the twentieth, thirtieth, fortieth, or even more milestones, to reach it. And with how many dear associations, it is encompassed; every year they thicken. We can remember when we were but little viles, as it were, clinging to the wall. A single support was all that was needed. Then some climbed the first story, then the second, and then scaled the roof; and still they remain to enrich the old homestead with the beauty of their luxury. Others were transplanted, some in congenial, some in barren soil.

Now, as we come to another Thanksgiving, when the early autumn winds of our life are stirring these remembrances and associations, let us listen to the teaching of these tremulous sounds.

## What lessons should they teach us.

## FIRST LESSON—TO THE GLAD.

If the heart is glad, what a blessing. Joyful workmen proclaim a good master. It is not to the credit of any employer when his servants work for him with groans and tears. Therefore, if we are glad, we might remember who makes us glad. Gladness is good. It is a jewel. God loves it. He has made his children capable of it. Gladness serves to win others to join us, that they may share our cheerfulness. We are in possession to-day of that for which we should be truly thankful, if we can say: Our heart is glad; our children are glad; the nation does not weep; the stream of God's mercy is ours, and His providences are the inheritance of His people.

To them who can say these things, let this day be for gratitude and joy.

## SECOND LESSON—TO THE POOR AND UN-LEARNED.

It may be that some of us, standing on this summit of days and looking back over the past, see our footprints on a pathless journey. In the shadows that fell across our path, we had neither the aid of wealth nor the light of education to guide us. We wandered, we knew not whither. We have fallen, but none would lift us up. For these, there is a future which is not all dark.

There are agencies at work for us, which are angler in disguise. Our life would be repeated in the life of our child, if it were not for the free institutions of our country throwing their arms of protection around our offspring. The United States can boast of a common school system which is to American youth more than Grecian valor or Roman patriotism. The boy who comes from a well-graded school, disciplined by a conscientious teacher, is equal for tasks in life which would be unsurmountable to a Grecian hero or a Roman veteran. If we are poor the state grants their boon—a free education—to our children, that they may lead more prosperous lives than ours have been.

In the schools and churches and Sunday schools, the poor and illiterate man has a chance, and those of us who are poor ought to rest with no little sense of security behind the bulwark of our free institutions.

## THIRD LESSON—TO THE SORROWING.

The associations of to-day may stir with sounds sometimes mournful, but the sad music is from golden wires. Some of us have wept. Those in whom we trusted to guide the nation have fallen and our hopes have been disappointed; or, the parental hand has ceased to provide; or, the child's laugh is not heard in the hall; or, some cherished hope is blasted.

But through these openings of sympathy the light of heaven may flash more brightly upon us. We may be able to hear through these rendings, the chorus of harps, as it rolls downward, fuller, sweeter, richer, grander.

These things which cause us tears may be a current in the ocean upon which we are cast that will bear us on its bosom to the throne of God.

Then, as flowers carry dew drops trembling on the edges of their petals, and ready to let them fall at the first waft of wind or brush of bird, so the heart should carry its beaded words of thanksgiving; and at the first breath of heavenly favor, let down the shower perfumed with gratitude.

## Farm for Sale or Rent.

A farm of forty acres, six miles southeast of Sedalia, well improved, will be sold for \$600 cash, or I will rent it one year for \$100 cash. It is supplied with good buildings, an excellent living well of water in the driest season, and a good range handy for stock. No richer land can be found in this country. Come and see or write. Address,

8-15w3m\* JOHN WINSLOW, Sedalia, Mo.

## Market.

Fresh Meat every Tuesday and Friday. I can also serve lunch on short notice.

WILLIAM GOFF, Dresden, Mo.

8-9w3m

## SIX HUNDRED DOCTORS.

Assembled to Witness an Operation Beyond the Skill of the Best of Them.

## New York Sun.

Mr. George O. Starr sent 2,312 invitations to physicians in this city and hereabouts to attend an interesting clinic by Dr. Lynn, of London, at a certain number on Broadway. Some six hundred doctors responded, many of them accompanied by ladies. They were ushered between the lines of living curiosities, which Mr. Bunnell has collected and into the auditorium, where Dr. Lynn said he should be happy to decapitate and otherwise dismember one or more of them, if any felt like submitting to the operation.

None responding, he said he would take a stage carpenter for his subject, and invited two of the doctors to assist him. After propounding to them an intricate question in biology, asking them if the solution was clear in their minds, and being answered by the shaking of heads, he confessed that neither was it clear in his mind, and the stage carpenter, who was to be his subject was strapped against a board at the rear of the stage, a curtain being first drawn in front of him to conceal the painful process. Then, the curtain being withdrawn, Dr. Lynn seized a heavy pruning knife and with a neat twist removed the left arm of the figure strapped to the board. The left leg was next sacrificed. Then a black cloth was thrown over the head, which was undoubtedly that of the stage carpenter, and when the cloth was removed the figure was headless. The doctor offered this part of the man to any lady in the hall who would hold it while the dissection proceeded, but none volunteered. The figure pointed in mute appeal with his right hand to the place where the head ought to be, and the doctor kindly restored the head, which smiled with gratification. The other members of the body were thrown at the stage carpenter's feet—or, more properly, at his foot—and he was told to put himself together while the curtain was drawn for half a minute. At the expiration of that time he walked forth, to all appearances whole, though Dr. Lynn told the lookers-on that they must not trust wholly to appearances.

At any rate, what was done had been accomplished without loss of blood, and the assembled doctors acknowledged that this was more that they could themselves hope for in performing the amputation of a man's head, one arm and one leg.

## A Slight Misunderstanding.

They were horse fanciers and were speeding a team out on the road to Grose Point, and after a long discussion of their favorites, one of them leaned back in the buggy, let the lines drop loose and said:

"You ought to have seen Suke. Ah! she was a critter to be proud of. She was a whole team and a boy to drive, I kin tell you."

"Broke to harness?" asked his friend.

"Well, now, you bet she was, though once in a while she'd take the bits in her mouth and go it alone, but she was a high-flyer, she was. I ain't got over her loss yet."

"Wuth much?" asked the other man.

"Wuth her weight in gold to me. I declare I never come so near cryin' as I did when I lost that critter; she was a worker, too."

"Kinder gentle, I suppose?" suggested the other.

"Oh, she'd occasionally kick over the traces," as remembrances of some lively scrimmages presented themselves. "I allus kept the whip hand of her, the best av 'em kick sometimes."

"Ever trot her?" asked the friend.

"Trot her? What do you mean? Lord, man, I'm talking about my late wife—did ye s'pose I meant a horse?" he asked indignantly.

They finished their drive in silence.

## Marriage Last Evening.

Mr. J. J. Devine, of Clifton, Mo., and Miss Katie Scally, of this county, were united in marriage by Rev. Father Graham, of the Catholic church, yesterday afternoon. The happy couple, immediately after the ceremony, repaired to the residence of the parents of the bride, four miles south of the city, where a sumptuous repast was served. After spending a few days in this city, the happy couple will leave for Clifton, which place they will make their home.

—We have a speedy and positive cure for Catarrh, Diphtheria, Canker mouth and Head Ache, in SHILOH'S CATARRH REMEDY. A nasal injector free with each bottle. Use it if you desire health and sweet breath. Price 50 cts. Sold by all druggists.

—\$1500 per year can be easily made at home working for E. G. Ridcutt & Co., 10 Barclay street, New York. Send for their catalogue and full particulars. 11-1wly

## STILL AHEAD.

Why is it that all the best people in the county buy stoves of Thomas & Hadden? The reason is simple. They have a large assortment and sell at bottom prices. We will try to please you. Come and see us.

THOMAS & HADDEN, 10-16s2m. 119 Second Street.

## Assignee's Notice of the Allowance of Claims.

Notice is hereby given to all the creditors of Nellie Manville, that the undersigned assignee of the estate of Nellie Manville on December 5th, 1881, at the law office of Felix & Barnett, in the city of Sedalia, Pettis county, Missouri, will adjust and allow all claims due against the estate of said Nellie Manville, that are properly proven against said estate.

E. M. PHILLIPS, Assignee.

11-6s4t.

—Stocking yarns only 65c a pound, at the Old Reliable Sedalia Woolen Mills.

[9-13w2m]

—A long haired, lank, lean and lantern-jawed individual went into a popular and well-known saloon to-day, about comfortable lunch time, drew up a chair and called for a knife and fork, fan and glass of water. The fan was to cool off his Tom and Jerry with. He didn't get anything but the bounce.

—About a dozen bridge carpenters passed through the city last evening on their way to the Osage bridge. The work of erecting a new bridge will be vigorously prosecuted now that the river has fallen sufficiently to allow work to be resumed.

—"Nothing gives me so much relief for the rheumatism, which has troubled me for years, as St. Jacobs Oil," says Mr. F. W. Brown, Glen Rock, Pa.

## THE BAZOO!

SEDALIA, MO.

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